(d) if so, do not the Government think it high time to so reduce the expenditure as to make the department self-supporting by abolishing a few of the offices and to give effect to the resolution passed in the Council in its Vrischigam session?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(a) and (b) Statements containing the required information are placed on the Council Table.

(c) Yes.

(d) The question of abolition of a few Registry offices has more than once been considered by the Government but it had ultimately to be dropped in accordance with the decision of the Legislative Council. There is no proposal at present to abolish any of the offices in order to give effect to the resolution referred to.

Cochin Land Mortgage Bank.

230. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) when was the Cochin Land Mortgage Bank started;

(2) what is the amount of its present paid-up share capital;

(3) the total number and value of the application for loans (a) received; and

(b) paid so far?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—(1) In Vrischigam 1111.

(2) Rs. 15,291—4—0.

(3) 280.

(a) Rs. 5,37,570

(b) Nil.

Thekkumkara Co-operative Society.

231. Mr. A. Narayana Menon—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Thekkumkara Co-operative Society is under liquidation; if so, who the present liquidator is and whom he succeeded;

(b) was the first liquidator able to collect any amount due to the society; how long was he liquidator;

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(c) were there decrees standing to the credit of the society at the time of the appointment of the first liquidator; what was the aggregate of the said decree debts; did they subsequently become barred by limitation; if so, when; was any step taken to make good the loss to the society; if so, with what result;

(d) were suits filed by the society and against the society before the Registrar of Co-operation, pending at the time of the appointment of the liquidator who filed the suit against the society; what has become of the two sets of suits mentioned above;

(e) what is the total sum for which suit has been filed by the society;

(f) what is the present liability of the society; who is the creditor; is the debt disputed; if so, what has become of the dispute;

(g) have the Government received petitions on these matters; if so, will they be pleased to place them on the table; what orders have been passed on them?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—(a) Yes. Mr. K. V. Raman Nayar who succeeded Mr. C. K. Ravi Varma Thampan.

(b) No dues was collected except the cash balance.

From 14—2—1106 to 1—1—1111.

(c) Yes. There were 5 decrees amounting in all to Rs. 353—12—2. Four of them were returned by the Diwan Peishkar stating that the amounts covered by them were irrecoverable. No decrees became barred by limitation after the appointment of the liquidator.

(d) Yes. The Central Bank. The two sets of suits were being heard by an arbitrator. Since the registration of the society had to be cancelled before deciding them, the suit files were forwarded to the liquidator who has full powers to dispose of them. The former liquidator says that the hearing of the suits were not continued according to legal advice taken by him.

(e) Rs. 3,487—8—5.

(f) Rs. 4,650—8—0. The Central Bank is the only creditor. The debt is disputed. The members of the society contend that the Central Bank has no right to demand repayment on grounds of limitation of claim.

This dispute was originally referred to the Registrar but

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on dissolution of the society the files were forwarded to the liquidator. The files regarding the dispute were recorded by the liquidator as no action could be taken on them.

(g) Yes. The petitions received and the orders thereon are placed on the Council Table.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know, Sir, what was the work that the liquidator was engaged in during the long period of 5 years?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—He was entrusted with so many liquidation works that he could not attend to this work.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Are we to take it therefore that the liquidator did not do anything with the liquidation except take into his hand the cash balance in the Society?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—No. He was persuading the members to pay back some of the money. But unfortunately that could not be accomplished.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Are we to take it that he was simply persuading the members to pay back the loan amount all this time?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—The records do not show anything about it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was not the department getting reports from the liquidator?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was he not submitting monthly statements of his work?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—And from the reports was not the Department able to find out that this gentleman was absolutely doing nothing?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—Sir, I had nothing to do with the records of the period of 5 or 6 years back. From the records I do not find any progress made in the work.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is he not an Inspector of Co-operative Societies?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—Yes.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is he still in service?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—With regard to the 5 decrees that were sent to the Diwan Peishkar four were returned. What has become of the other?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—That is being executed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—When was that decree sent to the Diwan Peishkar?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—When were these decrees returned?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—I have no information, just now.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—Were these decrees sent for execution to the Munsiff's Court so that the debtors could be arrested and the money realised?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—No. The procedure is to send the decrees to the Diwan Peishkar first so that he may execute it without any additional expenditure to the society.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—With regard to (f) the files regarding the dispute were recorded by the liquidator. Why?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—It was rather a very thorny question. It all centred round an election and the newly elected committee members were saying that the old committee was illegally constituted and so the debts were not binding on the general members. On the face of it their arguments could not stand. So the Liquidator had to record it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know when the loan was advanced by the Central Bank to the Society?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—It was somewhere in the year 1101.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know when the suit by the Central Bank was filed?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—I think it was in 1105.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—With regard to (e) may I know the number of persons from whom this amount is to be realised?

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Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—About 70 or 75.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Are the Government aware that this amount is to be collected from almost all of that village? Are all these decrees in execution now?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—By the Department?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—Through the Revenue Department.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Has any collections been made subsequent to the appointment of the present liquidator?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know how much?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon.—I want notice.

Institution of Agricultural Farms.

232. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table (a) the questionnaire they had issued; and

(b) the reply they received for the same early in 1916 regarding the institution of agricultural farms, etc.;

(c) what have they done in connection with them?

Mr. K. Krishna Warriar.— (a) The questionnaire is appended *(Vide Appendix X)*.

(b) Answers to the questionnaire as such were not received. The Diwan held a number of agricultural conferences at various centres in all the Taluks and thus ascertained public opinion on the questionnaire.

(c) A comprehensive soheme of work for the Agricultural Department was drawn up. A copy of the Diwan's Proceedings C. 435/90, dated 17th February 1917 is placed on the Council Table.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon—Are any of the schemes in operation now?

Mr. K. Krishna Warriar.—Yesterday in my budget speech I enumerated the items of work the department are doing.

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